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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, PPS

DATE: 9 May 1957

FROM : Chief, LAS

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report #19

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A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

W
With a view to anticipating need prior to existence of either a crisis or stated requirements, the Language and Area School is designing and preparing to offer a limited program of language training and area training on Africa and Central Asia. Stated requirements for training in these areas so far are significant only in their indication of general neglect.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

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1. [redacted] met with [redacted] on OTR's draft package proposal for handling NEA's special training program. Agreement was reached on a schedule for providing 9 to 10 months training to two successive groups of new recruits beginning 3 September. The training period will include 12 weeks on language and area, to be handled concurrently, with a contribution by SIC within the area phase. It is hoped that the final OTR proposal to NEA will include: (a) this schedule; (b) nomination of [redacted] as project officer in overall charge of the groups, with assistance from a representative or deputy from each school involved; and (c) a request for NEA's specific language requirements. While the demands on [redacted] for providing instruction and supervision under this plan would probably represent a full-time assignment, the area courses involved would be open to the entire Agency.

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The principal language requirements will be French, which will undoubtedly place a strain on present facilities. Arabic, which will rank second, will also raise problems, especially since it may be desired at both beginning and intermediate levels. Swahili and perhaps other minor languages may also be requested for small numbers.

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2. [redacted] used an eight-page chart of European history for the first time in the Free Europe course. This graphic aid, on which he has been working on his own time during the past year and a half, highlights the major periods and their significance. It was the basis of his two lectures which sketch the framework for the more specialized talks on the roots of contemporary problems.

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3. Our I Building Lecture Room continues to be filled to capacity by Agency auditors in the Free Europe course. Thus, although only five Agency employees enrolled as regular students, approximately half the audience at each session is composed of Agency personnel.

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4. [REDACTED] OSI/TO, called on [REDACTED] to be briefed on the Area Training Program. He showed a particular interest in the Americans Abroad courses and in the Integrated Language-Area courses on Germany scheduled for fall.

5. During the month of April, the I Building Language Lab was used for 2189 hours.

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6. The Language Advisory Committee held one of its regular meetings on 1 May. Present were: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Standard nomenclature for off-duty language courses was decided on. The four or more semesters of the basic course will be known as, for example, German 101, 102, 103, 104, etc.; the semesters in the intermediate course as German 201, etc.; and those in the advanced course as German 301, etc. It had been decided at a previous meeting that all semesters in this program would last a standard sixteen weeks and that the number of semesters in a given course would vary with the language involved. It was further decided that only applicants for intermediate and advanced courses would be interviewed as a prerequisite for admission to the course. The Committee also considered draft outlines of the first few semesters of the basic course in several languages.

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7. Two more prospective teachers for the off-duty course were interviewed by [REDACTED] and accepted. They are Mr. [REDACTED] of FI/[REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED], FI/D.

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8. On 3 May, [REDACTED] conferred at length on space, personnel and organization problems facing LAS. Particular emphasis was placed on the after-hours language program, which will require uncleared space and, in due course, regular management and supervision. It was agreed that language training and development must have first priority but that, with the present staff and with further development of an integrated program, the area program can and should be maintained at its present level. This was an explanatory meeting in furtherance of [REDACTED] work in integrating and coordinating the whole training program of OTR.

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9. On 3 May, [REDACTED] conferred with Mrs. [REDACTED] on the development of an area orientation program for wives and dependent children of Agency personnel. It was agreed to do a trial run on Friday, 21 June, in connection with the 17 June offering of Americans [REDACTED]

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10. [redacted] has arranged to have Chester Bowles come to the Agency for a lecture in connection with [redacted] course on the Indian Sub-Continent. The lecture will be held on Thursday, 20 June, in the afternoon.

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11. A Polish Seminar conducted by [redacted] began on 2 May. It meets each Thursday, from 1200 to 1400 hours, and has seven members. Wysocka's Polish Reader and newspaper materials are being used as a basis for discussion. This is CIA's first seminar in any East European language other than Russian.

12. The regularly scheduled French test was given on 2 May for 16 people; Mr. [redacted] of SR, served on the oral panel.

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13. The Russian test was given by special request for one person on 7 May; Mrs. [redacted] served on the oral panel.

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14. [redacted] went to the Machine Records Division on 1 May to consult with Mr. [redacted] about the machine coding of language proficiency records.

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15. At the request of [redacted] of OO/C, [redacted] met to assist [redacted] in acquiring guidance to answer field queries about language training relating to the incentive awards program.

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16. [redacted] is interviewing [redacted] a veteran member of the faculty of Chinese and Japanese at Columbia University, with a view to possible staff employment eventually to develop our program on Japan. [redacted] has met members of the LAS staff and [redacted] Chief of FE.

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17. On invitation, [redacted] attended the PP Career Service Board considering the career plan of [redacted]. The plan includes extensive Chinese language study. His qualifications had been previously certified by a Qualifications Review Panel.

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18. We have not so far located a staff employee qualified to instruct the out-of-hours Polish course. If we do not succeed this week, I propose to arrange for instruction at Georgetown.

19. Allen Evans, Director of OIR, Department of State, called on [redacted] on the occasion of his lecture in the Free Europe course.

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20. Final arrangements are being made for Russian language training [redacted] I am told the area has been marked off, and necessary preparations at the house are being arranged.

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21. [REDACTED] Chief, FE, [REDACTED] informed [REDACTED] that they are hoping by August to be able to release to LAS for service in the China program Miss [REDACTED] (now, by courtesy of FE, [REDACTED] teaching half-time) and Dr. [REDACTED]

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22. [REDACTED] of FE is continuing to make Korean language tapes for us to go with Volume II of the Holt Series.

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23. NSA is seeking advice from our experience relative to its intent to develop a modern language laboratory.

W 24. We have a substantial request from the Army for about 350 tapes in eleven (11) languages. All will have to be made at an estimated time cost of about twelve (12) man-days.

C. PERSONNEL ITEMS

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1. Mr. [REDACTED] reported for duty on [REDACTED] staff on 6 May.

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2. LAS personnel presently in training courses are [REDACTED] taking Operations Familiarization, and [REDACTED] continuing in his ninth month of Arabic Reading.

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